[Tashkent]

291 363 369 life, the dandy, these are found in the towns of Central Asia indeed as much as in Europe; but there they do not move about the streets, but sit about in the bazaar and especially in tea booths. The Central Asian dandies differ from their European colleagues, and indeed, not to their disadvantage, in several essential points. While the European dandies are distinguished by their walking sticks, short /167/ /Figure 59, p. 17a. Caption: Caravansary in Bukhara (after a photograph by G. Merzbacher)/ /168/ stockings and coats, high collars, small hats, heelless pointed shoes, and an orangutan-like bearing, their Central Asian colleagues are recognised by their proud and audacious bearing, their long boots with unbelievably high heels no thicker than a finger, short khalats, turbans or house caps set at an angle, and the flowers stuck behind their long ears.

363 361 Paving or macadamizing is of course out of the question for the streets of Turkestan. The street bed consists simply of the ubiquitous loess, and is therefore covered in summer with dust half a foot deep, and in winter with mud a foot deep, which in the lower places collects in such masses that the horses sink in to their bellies and there can be no further thought of a pedestrian. Since the streets are primarily traveled by riding horses and wagon horses, and by camels, all of which are accustomed to following the foot prints of their predecessors, definite footprints have been formed in the streets, running across the road, which remind one vividly of a potato patch. Travel on such a street even in a carriage with springs is very uncomfortable, and, for the equipage itself, mortally dangerous, as one can easily imagine. Only the native, wide-tracked, two-wheeled wagon with its huge wheels is capable of passing along this bumpy road safely.

[491] In the towns, bridges are built only over those of the numerous brooks and canals with banks which are too high and steep to walk or ride over easily. Otherwise it is left to the pedestrian to get through the water as [492] best he can. This is based on the fact that in Turkestan every halfway respectable person, man, woman and child is mounted and only the poorest beggars and tramps go on foot; for these there is no pity if they must walk with bare feet through the ice cold water and the knee-deep mud, in the winter.

In Tashkent the streets in the Sart town are considerably better than in many other Central Asian towns, but even here the conditions are such, that among other things, once eleven women drowned in

492
484

A cotton transport in the streets of Samarkand. To this day caravan traffic plays an important part in Turkestan.

101
133

pulated countries in the world. It is also known as Chinese Turkestan, and today forms part of the province of Sinkiang. The greater part of the country is a barren wilderness (see ill. page 1435). The central part, called the Takla Makan desert, is not only uninhabitable, but practically impassable. The very small quantities of water which run down into this basin at the time of the melting of the snows form the river Tarim, which runs eastward into the salty lake of Lopnor. The few oases, of which Kashgar, Jarkend, and Khotan are the most important, are all situated on the margin of this territory, along which the roads run. All commerce goes by way of caravans which require months to cover the distance from China to Kashgar.

492
133
484

[Eastern Turkestan -- Analyst]

[See cat 116, p. 5 -- Analyst]

492 133 [132] to Kashgar. Only Bactrian camels, very heavy double-humped animals, whose thick coat of hair protects them against the snow-storms and the bitter cold, are strong enough to carry burdens of merchandise through this waterless and treeless country. The temperature varies between + 35° centigrade in the summer and — 25° in the winter.

172 133 487 It is probable that conditions were not always so unfavourable. The ruins of richly adorned Buddhist temples and monasteries excavated by Sir Aurel Stein, Albert von Grünwedel, and Albert Le Coq, and an astonishingly large number of frescoes, sculptures, fabrics, and documents discovered by these scholars bear witness to this fact. The so-called silk-roads which passed these monasteries were

1/K [In Eastern Turkestan --Analyst]